

# the Astorian

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## CORONAVIRUS

### Mask rules ease after vaccination

New federal guidance issued for virus

By NICOLE BALES  
The Astorian

People who are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus can stop wearing masks and social distancing in most settings under new guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Gov. Kate Brown announced Thursday that Oregon will follow the federal guidance and provide updated recommendations for businesses on lifting mask and physical distancing requirements.

“Some businesses may prefer to simply continue operating under the current guidance

for now, rather than worrying about verifying vaccination status, and that’s fine,” the governor said. “Oregonians now have a choice of how to protect themselves and others from COVID-19: either get vaccinated, or continue wearing a mask and following physical distancing requirements.

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### Astoria plans for a more normal school year

Optimism builds as virus restrictions ease

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Astorian

Certain markers of the coronavirus pandemic — face masks, social distancing, students broken up into cohorts — will likely continue into the next school year, but the Astoria School District is planning for a return to more normal school operations in September.

At a meeting Wednesday night, school board members approved a plan that will allow students to return to school in-person, full time.

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Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

The shipping container apartment complex is proposed off of Portway and Industry streets in Uniontown.

### Container housing moves forward

Project still needs to meet parking, cleanup requirements

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Astorian

An apartment complex made of shipping containers proposed for Uniontown has passed historic and design review but still faces hurdles on parking and environmental cleanup.

Developer Chester Trabucco has partnered with the owners of several dilapidated lots to advance Portway Station, a complex of nearly 70 two-bedroom apartments made from stacked shipping containers. Each unit, formed by two side-by-side containers, is about 640 square feet and would rent for around \$1,000 a month.

“Our intent was to embrace the industrial elements of a cargo container, the much-needed requirement for housing and the opportunity to make a very positive impact on a very dilapidated area in the Uniontown area,” Trabucco recently told the city’s Design Review Commission.

The first and most visible of the six buildings in the complex, planned for the corner of Marine Drive and Portway Street, required approval from the city’s Historic Landmarks Commission and Design Review Commission.

The governing bodies approved the initial building, lowering it from three stories to two to better fit the scale of surrounding historic buildings, such as the Portway Tavern. The ground floor of the building on Marine Drive will include two retail spaces Trabucco envisions as offices for the apartments, a coffee shop or a restaurant.

The project also overcame a prohibition in city code against metal siding on buildings in Uniontown.



Portway Station

Portway Station will include nearly 70 units of two-bedroom apartments designed from shipping containers stacked in pods.

“There was discussion at the time the Uniontown overlay was being done of people worldwide starting to use cargo units as housing and for different things,” Rosemary Johnson, a planning consultant for the city, told the Design Review Commission. “And the committee felt at that time that that was not appropriate for the west Marine Drive streetscape in a National Register (of Historic Places) district and the look of the overlay district that they wanted.”

But the Design Review Commission determined that rather than siding, the corrugated metal on shipping containers was part of the structure and fit the industrial aesthetic of the area, including the Port of Astoria and a Quonset hut next door belonging to the Astoria

Railroad Preservation Association.

“There’s a lot of ways to experience this area, and not just by driving,” Commissioner Nichelle Seely said. “You might be walking. And in that case, you can see the Quonset hut. You can see the metal buildings down by the Port.”

#### Cleanup, parking plans

The city approvals give Portway Station two years to make substantial construction progress. But the properties are part of a state cleanup of former bulk fuel and automotive operations spanning the Port’s central waterfront. The housing project needs a cleanup plan signed off by the state Department

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The Astorian

Russ Warr, a former Astoria city councilor, died Tuesday from cancer at 78.

### Astoria loses a community pillar

Warr led Sears and Astoria Granite Works, served on City Council

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Astorian

Russ Warr, a former Astoria city councilor and community advocate who engraved local monuments and gravestones through his company, Astoria Granite Works, died from cancer Tuesday. He was 78.

Originally from Idaho, Warr came to Astoria in the early 1970s

through his career with Sears, Roebuck & Co. He owned and operated a local Sears store for more than 20 years.

Mo Warr, his wife of nearly 25 years, said her husband had initially been on a short-term contract with Sears but dove into community service once he realized he’d be staying longer.

He served on the boards of numerous civic groups, including the Astoria School Board and the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce. He helped start the Downtown Merchants Commission

that preceded the Astoria Downtown Historic District Association. Mo Warr said her husband took a special joy in organizing events like the downtown trick or treat on Halloween, during which he would dress up as Dracula.

By 1994, Warr had moved on from Sears to Astoria Granite Works,

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